

*Met with USPS and Northport Community officials; Believes public deserves access to information on what is being considered*

Hauppauge, NY – Today, Rep. Steve Israel (D – Huntington) called for an independent study to be conducted on the impact of any changes to the United States Post Office (USPS) operations at the Northport Post Office. USPS conducts its own analysis and study, but the results are not open to the public. The announcement was made during a meeting Rep. Israel organized in his district office for Northport community leaders and leaders from the USPS.

Rep. Israel said, "Northport residents deserve to know how they would be affected should the post office be closed or relocated. I am calling for an independent analysis, so that this information is made available to concerned residents, unlike the results of the study done by USPS. This post office has been an integral part of the fabric of the Northport community, and I will continue fighting to make sure that the assessment process remains transparent and fair. "

Also attending the meeting were representatives from Sens. Chuck Schumer and Kristen Gillibrand's Long Island offices. The Congressional representatives emphasized how important the Northport Post Office is to the local community and its economic vitality.

Sen. Schumer said, "We need to know all the facts before making any changes to the post office, and an independent study will provide the public and myself an unbiased assessment. There is no question that the Post Office needs to retool itself for the modern age, but we need to find a way to be efficient and keep the Northport Post Office downtown. This study will help determine the best way to do that."

Sen. Gillibrand said, "Northport Post Office serves as the heart of this community. While I believe that the Post Office should remain in its current location, it is critical that any process to consider relocation must be transparent and include sufficient input from Northport residents."

As it stands, USPS conducts a cost-benefit analysis reviewing the impact of all local factors before making any changes to a post office facility. This takes into account changes to both USPS operations and real estate properties. However, the results of this analysis are not made

public for proprietary reasons determined by the USPS. By having its own independent assessment, the community can contest the USPS findings and offer alternative economic factors and data that the USPS might have overseen in making any decision impacting facilities on which local residents rely. Rep. Israel plans to introduce legislation in Congress so that all communities have the choice of whether they want to commission their own cost-benefit analysis before changes are made to any local post office.

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